

At a meeting of the Citizens of Franklin,

at the State House in Frankfort, on Friday the 24th of July, 1807, for the purpose of taking into consideration the depredations, insults, and outrages committed by British subjects, on the property, rights, and persons of American citizens :

His excellency CHRISTOPHER GREENUP, esq. was unanimously requested to take the chair, & WILLIAM TRIGG was appointed secretary to the meeting : Whereupon the committee appointed for the purpose, reported,

THAT having had the several subjects referred to them; under their deliberation—having heard the recital of the late unprovoked and piratical attack made upon the United States' frigate the *Chesapeake*, of thirty six guns, commanded by Commodore Barron, by the British ship of war, the *Leopard* of fifty guns, commanded by captain Humphries—of the murder of our fellow citizens, and the abasement of the American flag, together with the insult and outrage committed on board the said frigate, by the British officer in mustering the ship's crew; and taking from thence four American citizens, and seamen; and with insolence and contempt leaving the killed and wounded on board the shattered hulk without a flag. And considering these transactions as the effect of a settled determination on the part of the British government, to avail herself of her naval superiority, to depredate on the property, harrass the citizens, destroy the commerce, and insult the independence of the United States of America : Evidences of which determination are seen in the long and lawless practice of impressing American seamen on board their merchant vessels—in vexatious and unjustifiable seizures and detentions of those vessels, and frequent condemnation of their cargoes, contrary to the laws of nations—in the wanton and cruel murder of John Pierce, off the port of New-York—in the insolent letter of cap. Love, abusive of our president and government, in the port of Charleston, on board the armed ship *Driver*, and his subsequent capture of sundry American merchant ships on our coasts—but especially, in the late unprovoked, cold-blooded, and dastardly attack on the *Chesapeake*, in which a series of unprincipled depredation and robbery is crowned by inhuman murder, riotous devastation, and atrocious insult. The more justly to be resented by the American government and nation, as they have ever made it a first principle in their practice to avoid giving offence—doing justice to every one, and aiming at the preservation of peace with all nations. But there is a point in the progress of encroachment and aggression, beyond which it would be a degradation to submit. And considering the American nation now at that point, where our feelings, sympathising with our suffering fellow citizens, and outraged by the unprovoked violence and insult of our *pretended friends*, demand retaliation; and where, perceiving that further quiet and submission, on our part, would but expose us to new insults, and a repetition of injury on the part of our real enemies : Therefore,

Resolved, unanimously, That we have viewed with grief as well as indignation, for some years past a propensity on the part of Great Britain to infringe our national rights.

2d, Resolved, nem. con. That in disclaiming all intention of dictating to our government, we consider the late unprecedented attack of the British ship *Leopard*, on the United States' ship *Chesapeake*, as having filled the measure of national insult and injury.

3d, Resolved, nem. con. That in expressing our full and entire confidence in the present executive; we rely firmly, on such measures being taken as will in future secure our independence and enforce respect from all European nations.

4th, Resolved, nem. con. That we will support the constituted authorities of our country in the measures they shall, in their wisdom deem proper to take, in vindication of our national honor, with our lives and our fortunes.

5th, Resolved, nem. con. as our opinion and firm hope, that if we are to lose our independence; it shall be lost with swords in our hands.

6th, Resolved, nem. con. That it is the duty of all who claim or aspire to the high and dignified station of free men, to preserve their national rights, or die in the last ditch in defence of them.

7th, Resolved, nem. con. That we strongly sympathise in the sentiments expressed, and the prompt and patriotic measures adopted by the citizens of Norfolk. (Virginia,) and its vicinity, on this trying emergency; flowing from a laudable indignation at the atrocious outrage committed on our flag; and dictated by a disinterested regard for the honor and independence of our common country.

8th, Resolved, nem. con. That this meeting do approve of the spirit of opposition to the acts of violence and hostility committed on American citizens and the flag of the United States by British subjects, manifested in the meetings of our Atlantic brethren—and also of the determination of those meetings to avoid and prohibit all intercourse with British ships of war until the determination of our government shall be known.

9th, Resolved, nem. con. That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the chairman of the meeting for his prompt and faithful attention to the important subjects under consideration—and that he be requested to forward a copy of these proceedings to the president of the United States—to the executive of each state—and to the editors of the *Western World* and *Palladium*.

Signed by order of the meeting,

CHRISTOPHER GREENUP, Chairman

Teste. WILLIAM TRIGG, Secretary.